

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:629
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
RISE IN T.B. CASES
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tuberculosis infection has reached a dreadful stage in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to check and control the menace of the disease; and
- (d) the total number of T.B. patients in the country, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) & (b) No, Sir.

(c) To control TB, with an objective to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in the entire country. Under RNTCP, diagnosis by sputum microscopy, instead of X-ray, helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 78 lakh patients on DOTS treatment, averting more than 14 lakh deaths. Every month more than 1 lakh patients are placed on DOTS. In 2006 alone, India placed around 14 lakhs cases on DOTS, more than any country in a single year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death rate reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges.

(d) A statement indicating State-wise details of patients detected and put on treatment under the Programme during 2006 and current year is given at Annexure-I.